

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

June 1, 2015

Dear Stakeholder:

TCEQ has now adopted environmental flow standards for many river basins and bay systems and the agency is planning to hold a stakeholder meeting to discuss draft guidelines for implementation of these rules. Rules for environmental flow standards were adopted for the following:

- The Sabine and Neches Rivers and Sabine Lake Bay;
- The Trinity and San Jacinto Rivers and Galveston Bay;
- The Colorado and Lavaca Rivers and Matagorda and Lavaca Bays;
- The Guadalupe, San Antonio, Mission, and Aransas Rivers and Mission, Copano, Aransas, and San Antonio Bays;
- The Nueces River and Corpus Christi and Baffin Bays;
- The Brazos River and its associated bay and estuary system; and
- The Rio Grande, the Rio Grande estuary, and the Lower Laguna Madre.

Staff has developed a set of proposed guidelines based on previous stakeholder input, which are available at http://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr_technical-resources/eflows/rulemaking, and is now seeking additional input in order to finalize the guidelines. TCEQ's goal is to protect the adopted standards, along with the interests of senior water right holders, in the water rights permitting process for new appropriations and amendments that increase the amount of an appropriation and to provide an understanding of the implementation process.

The stakeholder meeting will be held on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 10:00 a.m., at the TCEQ's office complex located at 12100 Park Thirty-Five Circle, Building E, Room 201, Austin, Texas. The meeting will also be available by webcast at <http://www.texasadmin.com/tceqs.shtml>. You may submit written comments by July 31, 2015. Address mailed comments to Dr. Kathy Alexander, TCEQ, P.O. Box 13087, MC 160, Austin, Texas 78711-3087 or by e-mail to wras@tceq.texas.gov. Please include the text "SB3 Implementation" in the subject line of your e-mail.

Please note that this is an opportunity to provide input to TCEQ staff on the process that will be used to implement the adopted environmental flow standards in water rights permitting. Staff will consider your comments in the development of the final document, but responses will not be prepared for comments received.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Kathy Alexander at 512-239-0778 or at kathy.alexander@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison Woodall".

Allison Woodall
Assistant Director
Water Availability Division